

CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS



COUNCIL PROPOSAL

Date: 9.15.2015	File Number: 305	Subject: Waiver of Festival Equipment Rental Fee for the Harambee Festival	
Proposed By: Kelly Allen Gray and Gyna Bivens		City Manager's Review:	Page:
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It is proposed that the City Council approve a waiver of the festival equipment rental fees for the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. for the October 3, 2015 Sixth Annual Tarrant County Harambee Festival to be held at Evans Avenue Plaza.

DISCUSSION:

The Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a charitable organization and is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history and contributions of African-Americans in Tarrant County. The Society has requested a waiver of the festival equipment rental fee for the Sixth Annual Harambee Festival, which is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2015.

As stated in the Society's press release, the purpose of the Harambee Festival is for *"the entire Tarrant County Community [to] pull together in celebration of our shared history."* The Society has reserved the use of Evans Avenue Plaza for the Festival and has paid the site reservation fee. In October 2004, the City Council adopted a master plan for the Evans and Rosedale Business and Cultural District, which outlines implementation strategies for the broader vision plan for this area that was developed in 2000. As cited in the City's Comprehensive Plan, the master plan adopted by the City Council was, among other things, *"intended to celebrate the African-American heritage of Near Southeast Fort Worth through the development of an attractive, economically vibrant, pedestrian-scaled neighborhood center."* As a result, the Festival's location at the Evans Avenue Plaza is particularly appropriate.

The City of Fort Worth's Festival Equipment Rental Policy establishes fees for rental of various pieces of festival equipment (M&C G-12180 April 07, 1998 and G-15881, September 25, 2007). The Society has requested the use of the 24' x 30' aluminum stage and that the fee of \$500 be waived. This waiver includes only the equipment rental fee. The Society is aware of and has no objections to paying labor costs that the City will incur in delivering, setting up, tearing down, and removing equipment.

The Harambee Festival will bring awareness to the Society, Evans Avenue Plaza, and the Terrell Heights Community, and will also promote and further the City's efforts to redevelop and revitalize the Evans and Rosedale area. In 2001, the City Council selected the Evans and Rosedale Urban Village as one of twelve community urban villages where revitalization efforts were most needed and where the use of public incentives could most sensibly be focused. As recommended by the Comprehensive Plan and in accordance with Resolution No. 3716-03-2009 (Expanding Economic Development Programs in the City), the City previously has authorized multiple public incentives to promote the redevelopment and awareness of the Evans and Rosedale Urban Village.

Consistent with the City Council's previous actions, it is proposed that the equipment rental fee be waived for the October 3, 2015 Festival event.

- ☐ LEGALITY
- ☐ FISCAL NOTE
- ☐ CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS
- ☐ CITY POLICIES MANUAL

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LEGALITY:

The Department of Law finds that this proposal is legal and that it is within the authority of the City Council.

FISCAL NOTE:

Upon approval of this Council proposal, the \$500.00 rental fee for the aluminum stage will be waived for the Sixth Annual Tarrant County Harambee Festival.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENT:

The City Manager has no objection to the proposed one-time waiver.

PROPOSED BY:

Council Member Kelly Allen Gray

Council Member Gyna Bivens

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